

Amendments to the Claims

1 Claim 1 (original): A method of distributing mail, comprising:
2 electronically transmitting a print job, and a list of postal addresses
3 of multiple recipients to which the print job is desired to be delivered, from a
4 user's location;
5 providing a printer in a postal delivery vehicle; and
6 printing out mail pieces from the print job, for at least some of the
7 multiple recipients, on the printer in the postal delivery vehicle.

1 Claim 2 (original): A method of distributing mail in accordance
2 with claim 1 wherein the mail pieces are printed in an order at least partly
3 corresponding to a delivery route for the postal delivery vehicle.

1 Claim 3 (original): A method of distributing mail in accordance
2 with claim 2 and further comprising routing the print job to respective postal
3 facilities separate from the user's location, the postal facilities being selected
4 based on the postal addresses, providing a wireless communication link between
5 one of the postal facilities and the postal delivery vehicle.

1 Claim 4 (original): A method of distributing mail in accordance
2 with claim 3 and further comprising providing a computer in the postal delivery
3 vehicle, coupled to the printer, wherein the printer is in wireless communication
4 with the postal facility via the computer.

1 Claim 5 (original): A method of distributing mail in accordance
2 with claim 4 wherein the computer is programmable with data describing the
3 postal vehicle delivery route, and wherein the printer prints out print jobs in the
4 vehicle delivery route order based on the programmed data.

1 Claim 6 (original): A method of distributing mail in accordance
2 with claim 4 wherein the computer is programmable with data describing the
3 postal vehicle delivery route using a graphical user interface that displays a map
4 that a user can interact with to program the data, and wherein the printer prints
5 out print jobs in the vehicle delivery route order based on the programmed data.

1 Claim 7 (original): A method of distributing mail in accordance
2 with claim 3 wherein a print job is printed just-in-time before the postal delivery
3 vehicle arrives at an address of an addressee.

1 Claim 8 (original): A method of distributing mail in accordance
2 with claim 4 and further comprising supporting a GPS receiver from the postal
3 delivery vehicle and coupling the GPS receiver to the computer, wherein the
4 computer is configured to determine which of the addressees the postal vehicle
5 is approaching, using the GPS receiver, and to cause printing out of a print job
6 for the addressee that the vehicle is approaching.

1 Claim 9 (original): A method of distributing mail in accordance
2 with claim 3 wherein some of the mail pieces are printed out at one of the postal
3 facilities and loaded into the vehicle at that postal facility, and other mail pieces
4 are printed out in the postal delivery vehicle.

1 Claim 10 (original): A system for distributing mail, comprising:
2 a server configured to receive, from a user's client machine, an
3 electronically transmitted print job, and a list of postal addresses of multiple
4 recipients to which the print job is desired to be delivered, from a user's
5 location;
6 a plurality of computers in respective postal facilities, at least
7 selectively coupled to the server, the server being configured to electronically
8 route at least portions of the print job to selected ones of the computers based,
9 at least in part, on proximity of the postal facilities to the respective recipients;
10 and

11 a printer configured to be supported by a postal delivery vehicle
12 associated with one of the postal facilities, the printer being selectively
13 wirelessly coupled to the computer in the associated postal facility and
14 configured to print out at least some mail pieces from the print job that were
15 electronically routed to the associated postal facility.

1 Claim 11 (original): A system for distributing mail in accordance
2 with claim 10 wherein the printer configured to be supported in the postal
3 delivery vehicle is configured to print in an order at least partly corresponding to
4 a delivery route for the postal delivery vehicle.

1 Claim 12 (original): A system for distributing mail in accordance
2 with claim 11 and further comprising a computer coupled to the printer and
3 configured to be supported by the postal vehicle, wherein the printer is
4 wirelessly coupled to the computer in the postal facility via the computer
5 configured to be supported by the postal delivery vehicle.

1 Claim 13 (original): A system for distributing mail in accordance
2 with claim 12 wherein the computer configured to be supported by the postal
3 delivery vehicle is pre-programmed with data describing the postal delivery
4 vehicle delivery route and the printer is configured to print out print jobs in the
5 vehicle delivery route order based on the pre-programmed data.

1 Claim 14 (original): A system for distributing mail in accordance
2 with claim 10 wherein a print job is printed before the postal delivery vehicle
3 arrives at an address of an addressee.

1 Claim 15 (original): A system of distributing mail in accordance
2 with claim 12 and further comprising a GPS receiver configured to be supported
3 from the postal delivery vehicle and coupled to the computer configured to be
4 supported by the postal delivery vehicle, wherein the computer configured to be
5 supported by the postal delivery vehicle is configured to determine which of the
6 addressees the postal delivery vehicle is approaching, using the GPS receiver,
7 and to cause printing out of a print job for the addressee that the postal delivery
8 vehicle is approaching.

1 Claim 16 (original): A system for distributing mail in accordance
2 with claim 10 wherein some of the mail pieces are printed out at one of the
3 postal facilities and loaded into the vehicle at that postal facility, and other mail
4 pieces are printed out in the vehicle.

1 Claim 17 (original): A system for distributing mail in accordance
2 with claim 12 wherein the computer defines a graphical user interface with
3 which a user can specify the delivery route by tracing a map on the graphical
4 user interface.

Claim 18 (cancelled).

1 Claim 19 (currently amended): A method of distributing mail,
2 comprising:
3 electronically receiving a print job and a list of addresses of
4 multiple recipients to which the print job is desired to be delivered from a user's
5 location, the print job being mergable with respective addresses of the list to
6 define multiple separate individually addressed electronic mail pieces;
7 merging the print job with respective addresses of the list to define
8 multiple separate individually addressed electronic mail pieces;
9 electronically routing the individually addressed electronic mail
10 pieces to respective postal facilities separate from the first user's location, the

11 postal facilities being selected based on proximity to the addresses of the
 12 individually addressed pieces;
 13 electronically defining postal delivery routes for respective postal
 14 facilities, in accordance with claim 18 wherein defining a delivery route including
 15 ~~comprises~~ electronically receiving natural language descriptions of a route in a
 16 computer and translating the natural language descriptions to an addressee sort
 17 order for printing out of the mail pieces; and
 18 at each postal facility for which an individually addressed electronic
 19 mail piece has been received, printing out mail pieces for respective addressees
 20 in an order corresponding to the defined delivery route.

1 Claim 20 (currently amended): A method of distributing mail in
 2 accordance with claim 19 ~~18~~ wherein ~~defining a delivery route comprises~~
 3 ~~electronically receiving natural language descriptions of a route in a computer~~
 4 ~~and translating the natural language descriptions to an addressee sort order for~~
 5 ~~printing out of the mail pieces,~~ the natural language descriptions include
 6 ~~including~~ street names and indications of when and which way to turn.

1 Claim 21 (currently amended): A method of distributing mail in
 2 accordance with claim 19 ~~18~~ wherein ~~defining a delivery route comprises~~
 3 ~~electronically receiving natural language descriptions of a route in a computer~~
 4 ~~and translating the natural language descriptions to an addressee sort order for~~
 5 ~~printing out of the mail pieces,~~ the natural language description is ~~being~~ capable
 6 of including street names and addresses, indications of when and which way to
 7 turn, and an indication of whether mail is to be delivered to all addresses on one
 8 side of a portion of a street or the other side or alternating sides.

1 Claim 22 (currently amended): A method of distributing mail,
 2 comprising:
 3 electronically receiving a print job and a list of addresses of
 4 multiple recipients to which the print job is desired to be delivered from a user's

location, the print job being mergable with respective addresses of the list to define multiple separate individually addressed electronic mail pieces;

merging the print job with respective addresses of the list to define multiple separate individually addressed electronic mail pieces;

electronically routing the individually addressed electronic mail pieces to respective postal facilities separate from the first user's location, the postal facilities being selected based on proximity to the addresses of the individually addressed pieces;

electronically defining postal delivery routes for respective postal facilities, including in accordance with claim 18 wherein defining a delivery route for a postal facility comprises defining a graphical user interface configured to present a map having streets displayed thereon to an operator, with which the operator can trace a pattern on the map to define a carrier route;

~~the method further comprising~~ converting the traced pattern to a sequence of addresses corresponding to the carrier route; and

at each postal facility for which an individually addressed electronic mail piece has been received, printing out mail pieces for respective addressees in an order corresponding to the defined delivery route.

Claim 23 (original): A method of distributing mail in accordance with claim 22 wherein the graphical user interface is configured to display opposite sides of streets, and wherein an operator can define a carrier route to a precision level in which sides of streets can be specified.

Claim 24 (original): A method of distributing mail in accordance with claim 22 wherein the graphical user interface is configured to display opposite sides of streets, and wherein an operator can define a carrier route to a precision level in which an order of individual houses to be included can be specified.

1 Claim 25 (currently amended): A method of distributing mail,
2 comprising:

3 electronically receiving a print job and a list of addresses of
4 multiple recipients to which the print job is desired to be delivered from a user's
5 location, the print job being mergable with respective addresses of the list to
6 define multiple separate individually addressed electronic mail pieces;

7 merging the print job with respective addresses of the list to define
8 multiple separate individually addressed electronic mail pieces;

9 electronically routing the individually addressed electronic mail
10 pieces to respective postal facilities separate from the first user's location, the
11 postal facilities being selected based on proximity to the addresses of the
12 individually addressed pieces;

13 electronically defining postal delivery routes for respective postal
14 facilities, including in accordance with claim 18 wherein defining a delivery route
15 comprises supporting a GPS unit from a postal delivery vehicle, and tracking
16 GPS locations of a postal delivery vehicle route; and

17 at each postal facility for which an individually addressed electronic
18 mail piece has been received, printing out mail pieces for respective addressees
19 in an order corresponding to the defined delivery route.

1 Claim 26 (currently amended): A method of distributing mail in
2 accordance with claim 25 ~~18~~ wherein the defining a delivery route comprises
3 ~~supporting a GPS unit from a postal delivery vehicle, and tracking of~~ GPS
4 locations of a postal delivery vehicle route takes place in a set-up run, and
5 wherein the method further comprises converting the GPS locations to postal
6 addresses.

1 Claim 27 (currently amended): A method of distributing mail,
2 comprising:

3 electronically receiving a print job and a list of addresses of
4 multiple recipients to which the print job is desired to be delivered from a user's
5 location, the print job being mergable with respective addresses of the list to
6 define multiple separate individually addressed electronic mail pieces;

7 merging the print job with respective addresses of the list to define
8 multiple separate individually addressed electronic mail pieces;

9 electronically routing the individually addressed electronic mail
10 pieces to respective postal facilities separate from the first user's location, the
11 postal facilities being selected based on proximity to the addresses of the
12 individually addressed pieces;

13 electronically defining postal delivery routes for respective postal
14 facilities including ~~in accordance with claim 18 wherein defining a delivery route~~
15 ~~for a postal facility comprises~~ defining a graphical user interface configured to
16 present a map having streets displayed thereon to an operator, wherein the
17 graphical user interface is configured to display icons representing houses on
18 opposite sides of streets, and wherein an operator can define a carrier route by
19 selecting housing using the graphical user interface; and

20 at each postal facility for which an individually addressed electronic
21 mail piece has been received, printing out mail pieces for respective addressees
22 in an order corresponding to the defined delivery route.

1 Claim 28 (currently amended): A method of distributing mail,
2 comprising:

3 electronically receiving a print job and a list of addresses of
4 multiple recipients to which the print job is desired to be delivered from a user's
5 location, the print job being mergable with respective addresses of the list to
6 define multiple separate individually addressed electronic mail pieces;

7 merging the print job with respective addresses of the list to define
8 multiple separate individually addressed electronic mail pieces;

9 electronically routing the individually addressed electronic mail
 10 pieces to respective postal facilities separate from the first user's location, the
 11 postal facilities being selected based on proximity to the addresses of the
 12 individually addressed pieces;

13 electronically defining postal delivery routes for respective postal
 14 facilities, including in accordance with claim 18 wherein defining a delivery route
 15 for a postal facility comprises defining a graphical user interface configured to
 16 present a map having streets displayed thereon to an operator, wherein, in
 17 response to two adjacent houses being selected in a row on the graphical user
 18 interface, a direction is automatically determined; and

19 at each postal facility for which an individually addressed electronic
 20 mail piece has been received, printing out mail pieces for respective addressees
 21 in an order corresponding to the defined delivery route.

1 Claim 29 (currently amended): A method of distributing mail in
 2 accordance with claim 28 ~~18 wherein defining a delivery route for a postal~~
 3 ~~facility comprises defining a graphical user interface configured to present a map~~
 4 ~~having streets displayed thereon to an operator,~~ wherein, in response to two
 5 adjacent houses being selected in a row on the graphical user interface, a
 6 direction is automatically determined and the graphical user interface displays
 7 icons representing houses at the next intersection and, in response to selection
 8 of at least one of the icons at the intersection, determines a direction for
 9 continuation of the carrier route.

Claim 30 (cancelled).

1 Claim 31 (currently amended): A system for distributing mail,
 2 comprising:
 3 a server configured to electronically receive a print job and a list of
 4 addresses of multiple recipients to which the print job is desired to be delivered
 5 from a user's client machine, the print job being mergable with respective
 6 addresses of the list to define multiple separate individually addressed electronic

7 mail pieces, the server being further configured to merge the print job with
 8 respective addresses of the list to define multiple separate individually addressed
 9 electronic mail pieces;

10 means for electronically routing the individually addressed
 11 electronic mail pieces to respective postal facilities separate from the first user's
 12 location, the postal facilities being selected based on proximity to the addresses
 13 of the individually addressed pieces;

14 means for electronically defining postal delivery routes for
 15 respective postal facilities including in accordance with claim 30 wherein the
 16 ~~means for defining a delivery route comprises~~ a computer configured to
 17 electronically receive natural language descriptions of a route and to translate
 18 the natural language descriptions to an addressee sort order for printing out of
 19 the mail pieces; and

20 means for printing out mail pieces for respective addressees in an
 21 order corresponding to the defined delivery route at each postal facility for which
 22 an individually addressed electronic mail piece has been received.

1 Claim 32 (currently amended): A system for distributing mail in
 2 accordance with claim 31 ~~30~~ wherein ~~the means for defining a delivery route~~
 3 ~~comprises means for electronically receiving natural language descriptions of a~~
 4 ~~route and for translating the natural language descriptions to an addressee sort~~
 5 ~~order for printing out of the mail pieces,~~ the natural language descriptions
 6 include ~~including~~ street names and indications of when and which way to turn.

1 Claim 33 (currently amended): A system for distributing mail in
 2 accordance with claim 31 ~~30~~ wherein ~~the means for defining a delivery route~~
 3 ~~comprises means for electronically receiving natural language descriptions of a~~
 4 ~~route and for translating the natural language descriptions to an addressee sort~~
 5 ~~order for printing out of the mail pieces,~~ the natural language description is ~~being~~
 6 capable of including street names and addresses, indications of when and which
 7 way to turn, and an indication of whether mail is to be delivered to all addresses
 8 on one side of a portion of a street or the other side or alternating sides.

1 Claim 34 (currently amended): A system for distributing mail,
2 comprising:

3 a server configured to electronically receive a print job and a list of
4 addresses of multiple recipients to which the print job is desired to be delivered
5 from a user's client machine, the print job being mergable with respective
6 addresses of the list to define multiple separate individually addressed electronic
7 mail pieces, the server being further configured to merge the print job with
8 respective addresses of the list to define multiple separate individually addressed
9 electronic mail pieces;

10 means for electronically routing the individually addressed
11 electronic mail pieces to respective postal facilities separate from the first user's
12 location, the postal facilities being selected based on proximity to the addresses
13 of the individually addressed pieces;

14 means for electronically defining postal delivery routes for
15 respective postal facilities, including in accordance with claim 30 wherein the
16 means for defining a delivery route for a postal facility comprises means for
17 defining a graphical user interface configured to present a map having streets
18 displayed thereon to an operator, with which the operator can trace a pattern on
19 the map to define a carrier route, and means for converting the traced pattern to
20 a sequence of addresses corresponding to the carrier route; and

21 means for printing out mail pieces for respective addressees in an
22 order corresponding to the defined delivery route at each postal facility for which
23 an individually addressed electronic mail piece has been received.

1 Claim 35 (original): A system for distributing mail in accordance
2 with claim 34 wherein the means for defining a graphical user interface is
3 configured to display opposite sides of streets, and wherein an operator can
4 define a carrier route to a precision level in which sides of streets can be
5 specified.

1 Claim 36 (original): A system for distributing mail in accordance
2 with claim 34 wherein the graphical user interface is configured to display
3 opposite sides of streets, and wherein an operator can define a carrier route to a
4 precision level in which an order of individual houses to be included can be
5 specified.

1 Claim 37 (currently amended): A system for distributing mail,
2 comprising:
3 a server configured to electronically receive a print job and a list of
4 addresses of multiple recipients to which the print job is desired to be delivered
5 from a user's client machine, the print job being mergable with respective
6 addresses of the list to define multiple separate individually addressed electronic
7 mail pieces, the server being further configured to merge the print job with
8 respective addresses of the list to define multiple separate individually addressed
9 electronic mail pieces;
10 means for electronically routing the individually addressed
11 electronic mail pieces to respective postal facilities separate from the first user's
12 location, the postal facilities being selected based on proximity to the addresses
13 of the individually addressed pieces;
14 means for electronically defining postal delivery routes for
15 respective postal facilities, including in accordance with claim 30 wherein the
16 means for defining a delivery route comprises a GPS receiver supported from a
17 postal delivery vehicle to track GPS locations of a postal delivery vehicle route;
18 and
19 means for printing out mail pieces for respective addressees in an
20 order corresponding to the defined delivery route at each postal facility for which
21 an individually addressed electronic mail piece has been received.

1 Claim 38 (currently amended): A system for distributing mail,
2 comprising:
3 a server configured to electronically receive a print job and a list of
4 addresses of multiple recipients to which the print job is desired to be delivered

5 from a user's client machine, the print job being mergable with respective
 6 addresses of the list to define multiple separate individually addressed electronic
 7 mail pieces, the server being further configured to merge the print job with
 8 respective addresses of the list to define multiple separate individually addressed
 9 electronic mail pieces;

10 means for electronically routing the individually addressed
 11 electronic mail pieces to respective postal facilities separate from the first user's
 12 location, the postal facilities being selected based on proximity to the addresses
 13 of the individually addressed pieces;

14 means for electronically defining postal delivery routes for
 15 respective postal facilities including in accordance with claim 30 wherein the
 16 means for defining a delivery route for a postal facility comprises means for
 17 defining a graphical user interface configured to present a map having streets
 18 displayed thereon to an operator, wherein the graphical user interface means is
 19 configured to display icons representing houses on opposite sides of streets, and
 20 wherein an operator can define a carrier route by selecting housing using the
 21 graphical user interface means; and

22 means for printing out mail pieces for respective addressees in an
 23 order corresponding to the defined delivery route at each postal facility for which
 24 an individually addressed electronic mail piece has been received.

1 Claim 39 (currently amended): A system for distributing mail,
 2 comprising:

3 a server configured to electronically receive a print job and a list of
 4 addresses of multiple recipients to which the print job is desired to be delivered
 5 from a user's client machine, the print job being mergable with respective
 6 addresses of the list to define multiple separate individually addressed electronic
 7 mail pieces, the server being further configured to merge the print job with
 8 respective addresses of the list to define multiple separate individually addressed
 9 electronic mail pieces;

10 means for electronically routing the individually addressed
 11 electronic mail pieces to respective postal facilities separate from the first user's

location, the postal facilities being selected based on proximity to the addresses of the individually addressed pieces;

means for electronically defining postal delivery routes for respective postal facilities, including in accordance with claim 30 wherein the
~~means for defining a delivery route for a postal facility comprises~~ means for defining a graphical user interface configured to present a map having streets displayed thereon to an operator, and means for, in response to two adjacent houses being selected in a row on the graphical user interface means, automatically determining a direction; and

means for printing out mail pieces for respective addressees in an order corresponding to the defined delivery route at each postal facility for which an individually addressed electronic mail piece has been received.

Claim 40 (currently amended): A system for distributing mail in accordance with claim 39 ~~30~~ wherein ~~the means for defining a delivery route for a postal facility comprises means for defining a graphical user interface configured to present a map having streets displayed thereon to an operator,~~ wherein, in response to two adjacent houses being selected in a row on the graphical user interface, a direction is automatically determined and the graphical user interface means displays icons representing houses at the next intersection and, in response to selection of at least one of the icons at the intersection, determines a direction for continuation of the carrier route.

Claim 41 (original): A method of distributing mail, comprising:
 electronically transmitting a print job, and a list of postal addresses of multiple recipients to which the print job is desired to be delivered, from a user's location;
 providing a printer in a postal delivery vehicle;
 printing out mail pieces from the print job, for at least some of the multiple recipients, on the printer in the postal delivery vehicle; and
 delivering a mail piece to one of the multiple recipients after that recipient has signed for the mail piece.

1 Claim 42 (original): A method of distributing mail in accordance
2 with claim 41 and further comprising requiring an addressee to sign for a mail
3 piece before it is printed in the postal delivery vehicle.

1 Claim 43 (original): A method of distributing mail in accordance
2 with claim 41 and further comprising providing a web site with which an
3 addressee can sign for a mail piece.

1 Claim 44 (original): A method of distributing mail in accordance
2 with claim 43 and further comprising displaying an electronic version of a mail
3 piece in response to the addressee signing for the item of mail using the web
4 site.

1 Claim 45 (original): A method of distributing mail, comprising:
2 electronically receiving a print job and a list of addresses of
3 multiple recipients to which the print job is desired to be delivered, the
4 addresses including postal addresses and addresses representing groups defining
5 multiple postal and electronic addresses, the print job being mergable with
6 respective addresses to define multiple separate individually addressed electronic
7 mail pieces;
8 determining if an address on the list of addresses represents a
9 group defining multiple postal and electronic addresses and, if so, exploding the
10 group into the multiple postal and electronic addresses;
11 merging the print job with respective postal addresses of the list to
12 define multiple separate individually addressed electronic mail pieces;
13 electronically routing the individually addressed electronic mail
14 pieces from the server to respective distribution centers separate from the first
15 user's location, the distribution centers being selected based on proximity to the
16 addresses of the individually addressed pieces; and
17 at each distribution center for which an individually addressed
18 electronic mail piece has been received, printing out mail pieces for respective
19 addressees in an order corresponding to a predetermined delivery route.

1 Claim 46 (original): A method in accordance with claim 45 and
2 further comprising electronically distributing electronic mail pieces to the
3 electronic addresses.

1 Claim 47 (original): A method in accordance with claim 45 and
2 further comprising e mailing electronic mail pieces to the electronic addresses.

1 Claim 48 (original): A method in accordance with claim 45 wherein
2 determining if an address on the list of addresses represents a group comprises
3 determining if that address includes indicia indicating that a group is indicated.

1 Claim 49 (original): A method in accordance with claim 45 wherein
2 determining if an address on the list of addresses represents a group comprises
3 determining if that address includes a fictitious city name designated as a name
4 identifying that a group is intended.